

Note: Ladies and gentlemen This weeks newscast is dedicated to the memory of the late Roy Neal, K6DUE who passed away a year ago on August 15, 2003, following heart surgery. Roy was our friend, teacher and served as the first elected vice-president of Amateur Radio Newsline after it became a 501(c)(3) nor-for-profit corporation. We miss him very much. "So Roy old buddy: This one is for you."

de WA6ITF

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1409 with a release date of Friday, August 13th, 2004 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Australian hams ask for a new ham band at 500 kilohertz, lots of news world wide on the B-P-L front, and the FCC talks about license processing. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1409 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESTRUCTURING: AUSTRALIA TO SEEK NEW 500 KHZ HAM BAND

The old 500 kHz the international maritime distress frequency could become part of a new ham band down-under. This if the Wireless Institute of Australia has its way. W-I-A News anchor Graham Kemp, VK4BB, joins us from Brisbane with the details:

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The WIA will shortly be writing to the ACA to request the establishment of an experimental amateur allocation at 500 kHz. Thats the 600 meter band.

WIA Director Glenn Dunstan VK4DU said "500 kHz was the international

maritime Morse code distress frequency for most of the 20th century."

"It was the frequency used by the RMS Titanic to send her plaintive cries for help that April night in 1912. It was the frequency used by thousands of merchant ships to signal their plight in times of peace and war."

"More often than not, 500 kHz was witness to a ship's Radio Officer's last moments. Many Radio Officers literally died at the key as their ship fell victim to enemy action or was overwhelmed by the forces of nature".

Glenn, himself an ex ship's Radio Officer, said. 500 kHz was replaced in 1999 by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), which uses a combination of automated terrestrial and satellite communications.

"Since the introduction of the GMDSS in 1999, 500 kHz use has declined rapidly. The last official users of the frequency, China, plan to discontinue operation in 2005. The frequency is no longer used in Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific or the US."

500 kHz has been instrumental in saving tens of thousands of lives in the last 100-odd years. It is thus fitting that the frequency be preserved as a 'spectrum national park' to commemorate those who paid the supreme sacrifice in its use.

"The best way to do this is to establish a small slice of spectrum around 500 kHz - probably 495 to 510 kHz - as an amateur radio band. The band would also provide a unique opportunity for experimentation with antennas, propagation, advanced narrow band modulation techniques and receiver digital signal processing." Glenn said.

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It should be noted that 500 kHz is still allocated to the maritime service so any permanent amateur access in Australia or elsewhere is some way off. It is worthy of note that the I-A-R-U Region 1 and various United States Amateur long wave groups are actively pursuing an experimental allocation at 500 kHz as well. (WIA News)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ECHO ON THE AIR

AMSAT has announced that the F-M voice repeater on the Oscar-51 Echo satellite is on for a trial period. The transponder was turned on the 30th July for about three weeks during which command stations will be watching the power budget and adjusting the transmitter power for good management of the battery.

For those wanting to give Echo a try, its uplink is on 145.920 MHz F-M, with 67 Hz CTCSS tone. The downlink is on 435.300 MHz.

A reminder that this is a trial of the F-M voice repeater only. Please do not send any data through it. AMSAT says that the digital portion of Echo is not yet ready for use. (ANS)

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THE BPL FIGHT: ZS AMATEURS SHOULD REPORT BPL TESTING TO THE SARL

Turning to news on the B-P-L front, South Africa AMSAT President Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, has now spoken out. He is urging amateurs and short-wave listeners in that nation to report any unusual but consistent interference to the South African Radio League. This as the rollout of Broadband over Powerline continues in that country.

ZS6AKV says that South African hams must continue to be vigilant about any B-P-L testing taking place in their neighborhoods. Hans says that following Pretoria's example several other metropolitan areas have shown an interest and may soon be starting trials. (SARL)

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THE BPL FIGHT: FOLLOW-UP ON SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC

Back here in the USA, San Diego Gas & Electric has confirmed that it is considering entering the Broadband Over Powerline business, but for now that's about all the utility will say.

As reported last week, San Diego Gas & Electric planners are reported to be seriously considering endorsing and sponsoring Broadband Over Powerline data transmissions on the company's power distribution system. The story went on to state that San Diego Gas & Electric is also considering entertaining proposals to partner with vendors for one or more field demonstrations of BPL. This, this despite being advised that B-P-L will cause considerable interference.

Bob Gonsett, W6VR, whose CGC Communicator newsletter was first to

break the story put in a call to the utility to try and get a bit more information. San Diego Gas & Electric response was brief and far from insightful. All that the utility would tell Bob is -- and we quote: "Like many utilities, San Diego Gas & Electric is assessing B-P-L technologies."

W6VR says that while we are all temporarily left in the dark as to San Diego Gas & Electric plans, those plans will eventually surface. As soon as they do, we will let you know. (CGC)

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THE BPL FIGHT: NORTH CAROLINA UTILITY ENDING BPL FIELD TRIAL

Meantime, North Carolina's Progress Energy Corporation says it's completed Phase II of its B-P-L field trial in the Raleigh, and will be closing down the experiment. In an August 4th internal memorandum reported by the ARRL Letter, the company said its program to test the viability of providing broadband service to communities it serves will wrap up by the end of August. The company reportedly will shut down the system once it's able to move its BPL customers to other broadband providers. Progress Energy's decision comes on the heels of announced shutdowns of B-P-L field trials in Penn Yan, New York, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (ARRL)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Broward Amateur Radio Club net serving Ft. Lauderdale Florida.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: HAM RADIO EXEMPT FROM CONTROVERSIAL SAN DIEGO WIRELESS SITING ORDINANCE

Wireless communication antennas would be allowed in San Diego, California's residential areas only as a last resort under a new policy recently approved by the City Council. By a vote of 7 to 1, the council has approved a new policy governing the design and

placement of wireless antennas, making it more difficult for cellular carriers and others to erect towers in or near residential areas.

Under the new regulations, the process will differ according to location. Some approvals would be made at the staff level, while others would require an okay from a planning group, a hearing officer or the full Planning Commission.

In the past 20 years San Diego has processed over 1,400 applications for cellular telephone towers but the the city has not tracked how many were actually built but there is some good news for hams on this one. ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Tuck Miller, NZ6T, reports that amateur radio is specifically exempted from the terms of this new ordinance

More about the ordinance itself is on-line at
[http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20040728/news_1m28wireless.htm](http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20040728/news_1m28wireless.html)
l (CGC with further information from NZ6T)

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RESCUE RADIO: COMMISSION SEEKS COMMENTS ON RULE CHANGES FOR EAS

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning possible revisions to the Emergency Alert System or E-A-S system. The agency is seeking comment on how E-A-S can become a more effective tool for warning the American public of an emergency. It is also a chance for radio amateurs to suggest new ways that the E-A-S might be interfaced with our hobby to better serve the public in time of need. More information is at
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-250534A1.doc
(CGC)

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WITH THE FCC: MANAGING THE DATA PROCESSING OF LICENSES

The FCC has a lot to say about the Universal Licensing System and some of the problems it faces in administering it. Especially those dealing with paper filings from the ham radio community.

Donna Scott, a Program Analyst with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. And in a recent interview with Rain, he outlined just one of the most common situations that her office runs into. This one dealing with applicants who fail to provide their FCC Identification Number better known as an F-R-N:

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Scott: "I believe that one of the biggest problems that we encounter are paper filings coming here to Gettysburg with no F-R-N on the application. The F-R-N is mandatory. This is the registration number that you obtain through the CORES database and without that number we really can't accept that application. And we do have a high volume of paper applications that still come in without that number."

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Probably the second highest volume of amateur applications that need to be returned are those from hams who do not read what's right in front of them. These are hams who insist on sending form 605 V-E-C to the agency. This even though the form 605 V-E-C is only for use by those who give the tests and not for the ham in the street filing paperwork with the agency:

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Scott: "It clearly states that it is a 605 VEC form. It says do not send to the FCC on the top and on the bottom. Yet amateurs continue to send them here to Gettysburg and we cannot accept them."

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According to Scott, the only version of Form 605 the FCC will accept from the ham community is the one that contains the approval statement from the governments Office of Management and Budget and that carries a current issue date.

This is only a fraction of the information that Donna Scott described about managing the nuts and bolts of the FCC's licensing system. There's lots more with her on this weeks RAIN Report. Its on line right now at www.rainreport.com or on the phone at 847-827-7246. (RAIN)

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ENFORCEMENT: ELECTRIC UTILITY WARNED AGAIN ABOUT INTERFERENCE TO HAM RADIO

A Tennessee power company has been told that its response to an earlier RFI complaint is inadequate. The FCC's Daryl Duckworth, NNØW, explains:

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Audio report only. Download the MP3 newscast audio file at www.arnewsline.org

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The FCC told the utility that the it knows of no powerline noise problem associated in any way with guy wires. (FCC, RAIN)

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ENFORCEMENT: \$3000 FINE FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

The FCC has issued Donald Donovan Jackson of St. Petersburg, Florida a monetary forfeiture in the amount of \$3,000. This, for operating an FM broadcast station on the frequency 102.1 MHz without Commission authorization.

On November 23, 2002, agents from the Tampa Office observed a broadcast station operating on the frequency 102.1 MHz. A search of Commission records revealed no FM radio station licensed to operate on 102.1 MHz in that area. The agents then used direction-finding techniques and determined that the broadcasts originated from a commercial office building located in St. Petersburg. Field strength measurements taken near the sight of the broadcast indicated that the signal strength exceeded the permissible limits for a non-licensed station.

The agents interviewed the owner of the building who provided them with a copy of the lease for suite. He also informed them that a person named Donald Donovan Jackson operated the radio station from the premisis.

On January 15, 2003, agents from the Tampa Office interviewed Jackson and conducted an inspection of the station after again observing a radio station operating on 102.1 MHz. During the interview, Jackson admitted to leasing the property and operating the radio station from that location. He was given the usual 30 days to pay the fine or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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RADIO LAW: DOJ WANTS MANDATED DIGITAL WIRETAP ABILITY

The Department of Justice says that technology companies should be mandated to ensure that law enforcement agencies can install taps on Internet traffic and new generations of digital communications devices. This as the D-O-J and other agencies press for a digital expansion to the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act.

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act is a 1994 law that requires the telecommunications industry to build into its products tools that U.S. investigators can use to eavesdrop on conversations with a court order. The investigatory agencies are worried that federal agents would not be able to install court ordered wiretaps against criminals who communicate using the latest digitally encrypted technologies. Lawyers for the Justice Department, FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration say that this need requires immediate attention and resolution by the Federal Communications Commission. (Published news reports)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Eastern Massachusetts ARES was activated to support Public Service Agencies during the Democratic National Convention which concluded Friday, July 30th. The ARRL reports the Salvation Army, that the American Red Cross, and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency all helped out. ARES was ready to provide any needed support in case of catastrophic loss of the communication infrastructure that had been installed for the event. (ARRL)

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RADIO IN SERVICE: FITTEST SEEKING ASSISTANCE

Those involved with Rescue Radio may find some appeal in this. The United Nations World Food Program's FITTEST operation is currently seeking Telecommunications Specialists for 3 to 6 month contracts.

FITTEST stands for the Fast Internet and Telecoms Emergency Support Team and it offers constant travel, constant pressure, constant challenges in a job that still allows you to combine a family life and a professional life in a two or three months on one month off

duty regime.

Typically, FITTEST hires people with non-conventional career paths to provide emergency deployment of VHF and HF networks, Satellite and Telephone systems. They are looking only at people with direct hands-on experience willing to work under harsh circumstances.

To get an idea of the work they do in Iraq and Afghanistan have a look at their web sites. They are in cyberspace at <http://www.hiciraq.org/mediacentre/gallery/FITTEST/> <http://www.qsl.net/ya5t>. Applications to mark.tell@wfp.org and martin.kristensson@wfp.org (WIA News)

★★

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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ON THE WEB: BIG CHANGES AT THE QRZ.COM WEBSITE

Some major changes are taking place at the very popular QRZ.com ham radio website. We have more in this report:

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Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, who runs the QRZ.com website has announced major changes in access to posting access site. This, for registered users whose login user name is not the same as their ham radio callsign.

Basically, Lloyd says that only contributors who have legitimate ham radio calls will be permitted to post material to most areas of the website. To accomplish this Lloyd says that he has created two levels of membership. One called Ham is for those who want to use their call sign as registration login. The other will be the Guest member for those who may not have a call or who simply prefer not to

use it.

Those who have a call and use it for login purposes will have full read and write access to all public Q-R-Z forums, plus the ability to make changes and/or additions to listings in the callsign database. Guest level members will be limited to posting on the sites Help Forum, the For Sale Forums, and the Questions and Answers Forum. These people will have no access to callsign database editing functions.

QRZ.com has also instituted several rules to help keep order and decorum at the site to make it enjoyable for the majority of those signing on. Among these are the right to terminate the current and future membership status of any user who engages in the harassment of any other user, staff member, or volunteer of this system or the use of any information derived from the website that contributes in any way to unsolicited e-mail of any kind. Also banned is the posting of obscene or offensive material on the site and QRZ managers say that they reserve the sole right to determine what is either offensive or obscene.

Lloyd says that the site will shortly begin converting current members to the new system. If you are currently signed up using your call sign as your logon I-D you need do nothing. For those who are not, QRZ we will be assigning new login names to those current members who are apparently licensed amateurs. The new logon name will be the same as the callsign that is listed in the QRZ call sign database as the 'Primary Callsign' for that account. Each user who is subjected to a name change will be notified via e-mail at the address we have on file for that user. Names that cannot be associated with a callsign will be assigned to the Guest level of membership.

For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Lots more about the changes are on the QRZ.com website under the title QRZ System Announcement. Lloyd and the managers at QRZ say that they hope that these changes will improve the website for everybody. (QRZ.com)

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HELPING HAND: THE AUDIO NETWORK

The U-K Audio Network is a website for the blind using audio web pages, controlled by standard keyboard navigation. It is the first site in the world that needs no adaptive technology to be accessible by blind and partially sighted users.

There are many resources on the Audio Network. For example, it is the only place on the Internet where you can listen to BBC Radio schedules for the forthcoming week in audio. And speaking of radio, there is a whole section of radio stations where you can change channels at the touch of a button, without having to worry about annoying pop ups or filling out a registrations.

Best of all this website is free. Its located in cyberspace at <http://www.yrguk.com> (RSGB)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: DENVER IN AUGUST

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the Denver Radio Club Hamfest is scheduled for Sunday, August 22nd at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden. Doors open at 8:30 AM with door prizes awarded throughout the fest. For more information contact Bryan Steinberg by e-mail to kc0cua@arrl.net or visit the clubs website at www.qsl.net/q0tx (KCCUA)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: CFMC IN ILLINOIS IN SEPTEMBER

And the Chicago F-M Club will hold its annual Hamfest and Flea Market on the weekend of September 18th and 19th. The venue is the Lake County Fairgrounds in the city of Grayslake, Illinois. More information is on-line at wwwchicagofmclub.org. (E-mail)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISS AT HAM FAIR JAPAN

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station will be represented at the upcoming Ham Fair 2004 on Saturday and Sunday, August 21st and 22nd in Tokyo, Japan. The ARISS U.S. team provided photographs of the radio equipment in the Service Module to J-J-one-L-Y-U. He will display some of them along with a modified Kenwood D 700 E transceiver which looks like the flight radio. Other photos will be used in a slide show as part of an exhibit in the Kenwood Booth. Ham

Fair is sponsored by the Japan Amateur Radio League with about 28,000 people is expected at the event. (ARISS)

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SPACE: NASA APPROVES NEW DESIGN FOR SHUTTLE EXTERNAL TANK FITTING

NASA is moving ahead with plans to redesign a part of the Space Shuttle external fuel tank that investigators believe played a critical role in the Space Shuttle Columbia accident.

The Space Shuttle program will soon begin installing an improved bipod fitting that connects the external fuel tank to the Shuttle during launch. Investigators believe that during Columbia's launch in January 2003, insulating foam from the bipod area fell off the external tank and damaged the left wing of the Space Shuttle. (NASA)

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WORLDBEAT - BELGIUM: GALILEO GPS SYSTEM APPROVED BY EU

Officials in Brussels, Belgium say the satellite navigation system the European Union is planning will not clash with one already in operation by the United States. This, as an agreement signed in that European nation will make sure that the proposed Galileo system will be compatible with the U-S owned Global Positioning System.

Galileo is slated to begin operation 2008. Together the two systems are expected to become a single world standard for positioning and radio navigation. (ANS)

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DX

In D-X, keep an ear open for GB6LOG. This is a special events station on the air through August 18th to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam during World War 2. The station will operate on all modes. QSL via the RSARS QSL Bureau to receive the special QSL from this station. For further information contact G0SWY by e-mail to G0SWY@aol.com (GB2RS)

And hams on Gibraltar have been granted permission to use the special prefix ZB300 during the month of August. This to celebrate the

colony's three hundred years of British sovereignty. If you work ZB300, QSL as directed on the air. (GB2RS)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: SIGHTLESS UK NEWSREADER TAKES TO THE AIR

And finally this week the story of a U-K ham who has overcome physical disability to become a news anchor for the Radio Society of Great Britains GB2RS News. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, in Nottingham has the rest of the story:

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Now news about a new GB2RS newsreader. Annick Morris, M0HDE, of Wigan, Lancashire, became a GB2RS newsreader two when she read the news through the GB3MR repeater. What makes this special is that 18-year old Annick has been blind from birth.

She has a specially-adapted laptop computer which accepts Word files, and which has a single-line display consisting of raiseable dots which form characters in Braille. Annick can read Braille fast enough to read out loud from this, although she can only 'see' one character at a time.

In the future Annick will be newsreading on 6 metres, 2 meters and 70 centimetres and it is hoped that she may also transmit on two bands at once.

Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

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This is not the volunteer first job that M0HDE has been successful in. At age 14 Annick attended the "Child of Achievement Awards" in central London after impressing organizers with her determination to overcome obstacles presented by her disability. This award recognizes the efforts of young people under the age of 16 who make special efforts to overcome personal disability or illness while also managing to help others. We at Amateur Radio Newslines welcome Annick Morris, M0HDE, to the worlds ever growing ham radio news reporting teams.

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

And this note. Because our staff will be in Huntsville to present the Young Ham of the Year Award there will be no update on the 661-296-2407 line on Friday, August 20th. Phone users are asked to utilize another of the automated phone lines operating in other regions. Our 661-2407 line will update to the latest newscast on Monday, August 23rd.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2004. All rights reserved.